

SUSQUEHANNA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE EXPANSION ACT

JULY 10, 2002.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of
the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. HANSEN, from the Committee on Resources,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 4807]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Resources, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 4807) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire the property in Cecil County, Maryland, known as Garrett Island for inclusion in the Susquehanna National Wildlife Refuge, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of H.R. 4807 is to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire the property in Cecil County, Maryland, known as Garrett Island for inclusion in the Susquehanna National Wildlife Refuge.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

On June 23, 1942, President Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9185 establishing the Susquehanna National Wildlife Refuge in Cecil County, Maryland. This area, which was closed to hunting, contained thousands of acres of submerged aquatic vegetation providing superb habitat for a large population of diving ducks.

In 1978, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service opened the closed area to hunting because the aquatic vegetation had largely disappeared and waterfowl use had declined to the point where federal protection was no longer necessary. As a result, the size of the refuge was reduced to the four acres of Battery Island which had been the site of a U.S. Coast Guard lighthouse since the 1920's. The Susquehanna Refuge has been further reduced by erosion and

it is managed as a non-staffed satellite of the larger Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge.

Garrett Island is located at the mouth of the Susquehanna River and it is the only rocky island in the tidal waters of the Chesapeake Bay. It is a link between the river and the bay. The island is about a mile and a half wide, is comprised of approximately 198 acres, and rises to 115 feet above sea level. The island is currently owned by a group of private land conservators who donated 15 percent of the island to the Cecil Land Trust. It is estimated that the cost to the federal government of purchasing the remaining acreage would be \$300,000.

Garrett Island has been occupied by humans for generations. It was the site of Maryland's second settlement in the early 1600's. In the mid-1800's, the B&O railroad purchased the island as a base for a bridge they built across the Susquehanna River and named it after its Chairman of the Board, John W. Garrett. Today, the island has no permanent residents and there is limited public use including bird watching, fishing and picnicking. The island has a variety of archeological, natural and wildlife resources. It provides high-quality habitat for 44 different avian populations and dozens of fish species, including 14 kinds of ducks, eagles, Canadian geese, common loons and tundra swans.

COMMITTEE ACTION

H.R. 4808 was introduced on May 22, 2002, by Congressman Wayne T. Gilchrest (R-MD), and was referred to the Committee on Resources. On June 3, 2002, the bill was referred within the Committee to the Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans. On June 12, 2002, the Subcommittee held a hearing on the bill. On June 20, 2002, the Subcommittee met to mark up the bill. There were no amendments and the bill was then forwarded to the Full Committee by unanimous consent. On June 26, 2002, the full Resources Committee met to consider the measure. There were no amendments to the bill. The legislation was then ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by unanimous consent.

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Regarding clause 2(b)(1) of rule X and clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Resources' oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the body of this report.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution and Article IV, section 3 of the United States grant Congress the authority to enact this bill.

COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XIII

1. Cost of Legislation. Clause 3(d)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires an estimate and a comparison by the Committee of the costs which would be incurred in carrying out this bill. However, clause 3(d)(3)(B) of that rule provides that this requirement does not apply when the Committee has included in its report a timely submitted cost estimate of the bill pre-

pared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

2. Congressional Budget Act. As required by clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, this bill does not contain any new budget authority, spending authority, credit authority, or an increase or decrease in revenues or tax expenditures. According to the Congressional Budget Office, enactment of this legislation could result in the expenditure of \$800,000 for land acquisition and annual administrative costs thereafter of less than \$200,000, subject to appropriations.

3. General Performance Goals and Objectives. The purpose of this bill is to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire the property in Cecil County, Maryland, known as Garrett Island for inclusion in the Susquehanna National Wildlife Refuge.

4. Congressional Budget Office Cost Estimate. Under clause 3(c)(3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee has received the following cost estimate for this bill from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, July 3, 2002.

Hon. JAMES V. HANSEN,
*Chairman, Committee on Resources,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 4807, the Susquehanna National Wildlife Refuge Expansion Act.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Megan Carroll.

Sincerely,

BARRY B. ANDERSON
(For Dan L. Crippen, Director).

Enclosure.

H.R. 4807—Susquehanna National Wildlife Refuge Expansion Act

H.R. 4807 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire Garrett Island, a 198-acre island located at the mouth of the Susquehanna River in Cecil County, Maryland. The bill would direct the Secretary to manage the acquired lands as a unit of the Susquehanna National Wildlife Refuge.

Assuming the availability of appropriated funds, and based on information from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, CBO estimates that the agency would spend up to \$800,000 to acquire the island in 2003. We also estimate that the agency would spend less than \$200,000 annually to manage the island and to make payments to Cecil County under the Refuge Revenue Sharing Act, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts.

H.R. 4807 would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. H.R. 4807 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would have no significant impact on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Megan Carroll. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

COMPLIANCE WITH PUBLIC LAW 104-4

This bill contains no unfunded mandates.

PREEMPTION OF STATE, LOCAL OR TRIBAL LAW

This bill is not intended to preempt any State, local or tribal law.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

If enacted, this bill would make no changes in existing law.

